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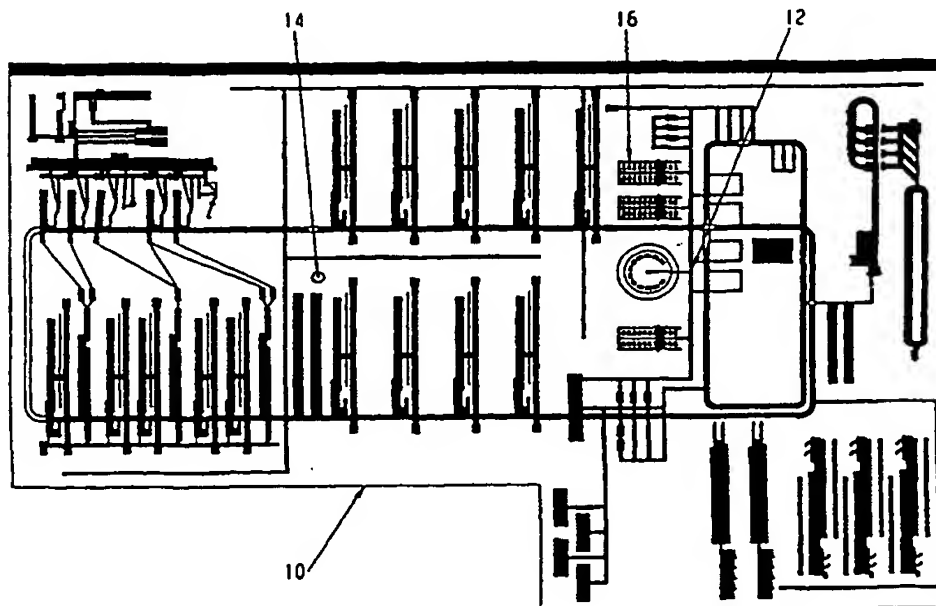
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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP00/04283 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 10 May 2000 (10.05.00)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/133,413 11 May 1999 (11.05.99) US  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> MAN- NESMANN AG [DE/DE]; Mannesmannufer 2, D-40213 Düsseldorf (DE).  <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> BURNS, Gary, P. [US/US]; 6385 Los Altos Drive, Rockford, MI 49341 (US). DUBOIS, Matthew, R. [US/US]; 1324 Bentree Drive S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508 (US).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> MEISSNER, P., E.; Meissner & Meissner, Hohen- zollerndamm 89, D-14199 Berlin (DE).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>

**(54) Title:** DOCK-TO-DOCK RECEIVING AND DISPENSING FOR POSTAL PROCESSING CENTER



**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to a postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays and a dock area including a plurality of transportation docks that provide interface with transportation vehicles, comprising: a receiving and dispatching system that loads trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and unloads trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting system; and wherein said receiving and dispatching system is at the dock area of the postal processing facility thereby providing substantially direct movement of fixtures between transportation vehicles and said receiving and dispatching system.